

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 IO-14 COME-00 SWF-02

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TAGS: ETRD, BE, EEC, UN, ENRG, EAGR, NZ, CH

SUBJECT: BELGIAN VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF MATTERS IN THE EC

REF: (A)USEC 5528 ; (B) BRUSSELS 5544 ; (C) USUN 2389 ; (D)SECSTATE
158188

1. JUST PRIOR TO THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S SLOWING DOWN FOR
VACATION PERIOD, A WELL INFORMED OFFICIAL
(JANNSEN) RAN OVER HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF
MATTERS IN THE EC WHICH ARE OF INTEREST TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. BEEF/CATTLE BAN: THE BELGIANS FEEL THE RECENT
COUNCIL DECISION WAS A "SHORT TERM SOLUTION FOR A LONG
TERM PROBLEM." THE BELGIANS SUPPORT WHAT THEY UNDERSTAND
IS A NEW ZEALAND INATIVE TO HOLD AN INFORMAL AND
AGENDA-LESS CONFERENCE ON BEEF AN CATTLE AMONG MAJOR
EXPORTERS AND IMPORTERS IN SOME FORUM OUTSIDE SUCH
ESTABLISHED ORGINAZATIONS AS THE OECD OR THE
GATT. AS THE BELGIANS UNDERSTAND THE MATTER,THE
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NEW ZEALANDERS HOPE TO FOMENT SUCH A CONFERENCE BEFORE

THE START OF TH NIXON/TOKYO ROUND OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS
IN THE FALL.

3. OBSERVER STATUS AT THE UN FOR THE EC:THE EC COUNCIL
WILL VOTE ON THE MATTER THIS WEEK,ACCORDING TO JANSSEN,
SINCE (FOR SOME REASON UNKNOWN TO HIM), A DECISION MUST
BE MADE IN NEW YORK BEFORE AUGUST 17TH AND THE COMMISSION
AND COUNCIL WILL, IN PRACTICE, CLOSE DOWN AFTER JULY 27.
BELGIUM RECOGNIZES THAT EX ADMISSION AS AN OBSERVER WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY MEAN COMECON'S ADMISSION AS WELL. ACCORDING
TO THE BELGIANS, CHINA (PRC) MAY VETO EC ADMISSION AS A
PART OF ITS DISLIKE OF COMECON AND ITS OPPOSTION TO
THE EVENTUAL GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO COMECON AT
THE UN.

4. COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON EC DAIRY PRODUCTS: WHILE
WELCOMING THE UNITED STATES DECISION TEMPORARILY TO
REMOVE THE THREAT OF COUNTERVAILING DUTIES,THE BELGIANS
FEEL THAT A MAJOR POINT HAS BEEN LOST BY TEH NIN SINCE
THEY HAVE, IN EFFECT, ADMITTED THAT A RESTITUTION
PAYMENT IS A SUBSIDY AND THEREFORE HAS AN IMPACT ON
INTERNATIONAL TRADE. THIS,BELGIANS FEEL,WAS A
SERIOUS LOSS OF A PRINCIPLE WHICH THE EC WILL COME TO
REGRET.

5. COMMENT: JANSSEN IS KNOWLEDGABLE AND EXPERIENCED
IN BELGIAN-EC RELATIONS BUT HIS VIEWS REFLECT
RATHER THAN INFLUENCE HIGHER LEVEL THINKING.
HIS VIEWS SHOULD BE WEIGHED AS WHAT IS BEING
SAID AMONG CIVIL SERVANTS IN BELGIUM ABOUT THE RECENT
PASTRATHER THAN AS INDICATIVE OF FUTURE BELGIAN POLICY
OR THINKING.FIRESTONE

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